

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/658,573

Examiner

Marissa L Ferguson

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Art Unit

2854

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed on 6/25/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a rectangular stencil screen frame including upstanding elongated sidewalls joined by spaced apart upstanding end walls to circumscribe a screen window opening establishing a stencil screen support plane; said upstanding elongated sidewalls including side plate sections generally perpendicular to said stencil, said side plate sections having sufficient resiliency to inwardly elastically bend toward each other to thereby relieve said stencil screen of a significant part of the stress while a squeegee traverses said desired pattern to be imprinted and to restore said stencil screen to said stencil screen support plane as a squeegee traverses said desired pattern to be imprinted.

Regarding claim 14, the prior art does not teach or render obvious screen support arms secured to said rectangular stencil screen frame to extend outwardly from said end walls, said screen support arms having sufficient resiliency to downwardly elastically bend to thereby relieve said stencil screen of a significant part of the stress while a squeegee traverses said desired pattern to be imprinted and to restore said stencil screen to said stencil screen support plane as a squeegee traverses said desired pattern to be imprinted.

Regarding claim 15, the prior art does not teach or render obvious screen support arms secured to said stencil screen frame to extend outwardly from said end walls, at least one of said upstanding elongated sidewalls and said

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screen support arms having sufficient resiliency to elastically bend to thereby relieve said stencil screen of a significant part of the stress while a squeegee traverses said desired pattern to be imprinted and to restore said stencil screen to said stencil screen support plane as a squeegee traverses said desired pattern to be imprinted.

Regarding claim 16, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a screen holder assembly for each of said screen support arms to interconnect said rectangular stencil screen frame with spaced apart control arms of a decorating machine, said screen holder assembly for each of said screen support arms supporting an electrically conductive terminal electrically connected to an elongated electrical bus bar fastened to said screen holder assembly, said elongated electrical bus bar arranged to traverse said electrically conductive terminal end portions in a generally parallel relation with said end walls for establishing electrical contact there between when said silk screen support arms releasable mount said rectangular silk screen frame to said spaced apart control arms of a decorating machine and fasteners to make electrically conductive contact by compressing said electrically conductive terminal end portions between said elongated electrical bus bars and said screen support arms while rigidly securing each said screen holder assembly to said screen support arms.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa L Ferguson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2163. The examiner can normally be reached on (M-T) 6:30am-4:00pm and every other(F) 7:30am-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marissa L Ferguson  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2854

*MFL*  
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*Andrew H. Hirshfeld*  
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